RICHARD STARKINGS · AXEL MEDELLIN

With JOHN ROSHELL, TYLER SMITH

and BOO COOK

ELEPHANTMEN

COMIXOLOGY ORIGINALS

2261 BOOK TWO

"THE PENTALION JOB!"

Millions of Dollars worth of Weapons of Mass Destruction on a Train from Chicago to L.A?

Sure.

What could go Wrong?

"COMICRAFT" PRESENTS

ELEPHANTMEN

RICHARD STARKINGS AXEL MEDELLIN

22-61

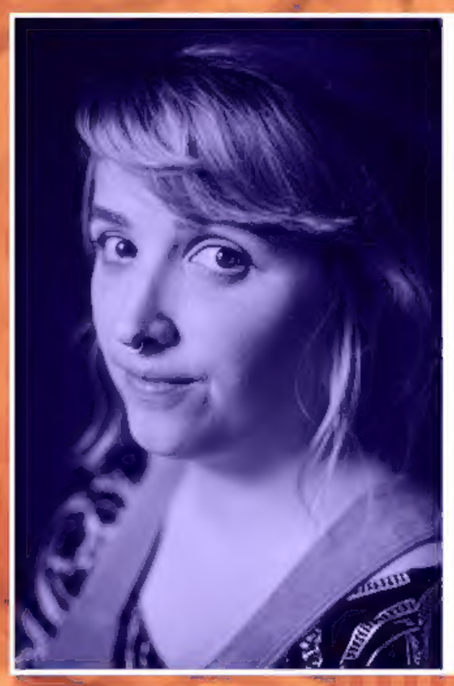
THE PENTA LION JOB

JOHN ROSHELL · TYLER SMITH · BOO COOK

RICHARD STARKINGS is not only the creator/writer of ELEPHANTMEN but also, co-creator, with Abigail Jill Harding, of ASK FOR MERCY! and co-creator, with Tyler Shainline and Shaky Kane, of THE BEEF. In the course of a distinguished career in comic books, Richard edited a line of original titles for Marvel UK in the 80s, founded the COMICRAFT design and lettering studio in the 90s and established the foremost and most extensive source for comic book lettering fonts at comicbookfonts.com. He has worked as a lettering artist on just about every mainstream comic book you might care to mention -- including BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE -- and has written comic strips for THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS, ZOIDS, TRANSFORMERS and DOCTOR WHO. With Comicraft's Secret Weapon, John Roshell, Richard created the indispensable guide, COMIC BOOK LETTERING THE COMICRAFT WAY as well as the Artist Retrospectives TIM SALE: BLACK AND WHITE and J SCOTT CAMPBELL: TIME CAPSULE. Richard loves Betty's Tearooms, Cadbury's Flake and Lori Perkins, but not necessarily in that order.

AXEL MEDELLIN has been creating art for the ELEPHANTMEN series since 2010. Nevertheless, he has somehow managed to fit in drawing and coloring other comics for HEAVY METAL, Zenescope, Boom! Studios and Image Comics' FIFTY GIRLS FIFTY with Frank Cho. This collection of ELEPHANTMEN features Axel's thousandth pencilled page of the series. Next stop: TWO thousand!

He is probably meeting a deadline right now.



MARGAUX SALTEL graduated with a degree in Fine Arts in 2011, Margaux Saltel has established herself as a kidlit and comic book artist since 2014, mainly in Europe. More recently, she's started collaborating with American publishers on comic book covers (Z2 Comics' Welcome to Showside, The Sweetness, BOOM! Studios and IDW). She co-created SUPERFREAKS, a ComiXology Originals title, with co-created with Elsa Charretier and Pierrick Colinet.

BOO COOK studied illustration at Art college in Cambridge where he felt he was learning a lot as his artistic imagination was beaten out of him – which caused him to retreat to play drums for five years while he spray-painted the unspeakable parts of ceramic beagles at a factory in Scotland. In the year 2000AD he approached the British comics weekly 2000AD with his portfolio and was soon drawing notable characters such as JUDGE DREDD, JUDGE ANDERSON, ABC WARRIORS, HARRY KIPLING, ASYLUM and, most recently, BLUNT for the JUDGE DREDD Megazine. Boo has also illustrated strips for Titan's Doctor Who line and covers for various Marvel books including WOLVERINE. Boo is a talented musician and frequently performs with his bands, FORKTAIL and MOTHERBOX. The cover of issue #5 of comiXology originals' ELEPHANTMEN 2261: THE DEATH OF SHORTY was Boo's fiftieth ELEPHANTMEN cover.

RICHARD STARKINGS
President & First Tiger

JOHN `JG' ROSHELL
Secret Weapon

TYLER SMITH
Design/Production

APPROVED BY THE COMICRAFT AUTHORITY

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When Time
moves us
away from the
Holocaust of War,
People always
Forget.

1

LOS ANGELES
2261

LA
COUNTY
JAIL

JUST ONE THING TROUBLED BURBA AS HE STARTED OUT ON THE LONG WALK HOME...

THEY PUT HIM AWAY FOR SIX YEARS.

SIX YEARS.

SO WHY HAS HE BEEN RELEASED AFTER JUST SIX MONTHS?

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BURBA...

TRAFFICKING *MIRROR* IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE!*

*See Elephantmen #11 & 32

YOUR UGLY FACE IS AN OFFENSE, FLASK!

VARP

ME? UGLY?

CHT

CHT

HATE TO *BREAK* THIS TO YOU, BUDDY...

TRAKAKAK

CHT

VARP

VARP

VARP

CHT

CHT

"...BUT NO-ONE EVER CALLED AN ELEPHANTMAN *'PRETTY BOY.'*"

SUBJECT APPREHENDED!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS!
HUNH?
LET ME MAKE THAT CLEAR FOR YOU.
FTAM
CHAKT
WHICH

SMAK

KRAK

GIVE IT UP, BURBA, YOU'RE GOIN' DOWN...

BIG TALK, YA GOVERNMENT STOOGE! BRING IT!

I WAS KINDA HOPIN' YOU'D SAY THAT!

THWAK

IF FLASK HAD HIS WAY, HE'D HAVE LOCKED BURBA UP AND THROWN AWAY THE KEY...

SO HOW IS HE WALKING FREE AGAIN NOW?

BURBA.

GOOD TO SEE YOU.

SCHAEFFER HAS A JOB FOR YOU.

NOT FOR ME, ANNIE...

I'M GOING STRAIGHT.

OH YEAH?

I THINK WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT BACK TO *YOUR PLACE* TO OPEN YOUR *GETTING OUT PRESENT*, BURBA.

AND IT'S *NOT* A PAIR OF SOCKS.

A LITTLE WINE...

A LITTLE MUSIC...

AND JUST A WHOLE LOTTA ELEPHANTMAN!

HKHHH...

HUNH?

BIP

BURBA. GOOD MORNING.

SCHAEFFER!

BIP

WHAT THE SNECK--?

IT'S A BOMB.

I CAN'T REMOVE IT. *YOU* SHOULDN'T *TRY*.

YOU'RE ONLY OUT OF COUNTY JAIL BECAUSE THE PEOPLE I WORK FOR *WANTED* YOU OUT.

ONE *LAST* JOB, BURBA, AND YOU'RE DONE. THE COLLAR IS AN *INCENTIVE* REQUESTED BY MY EMPLOYER.

I'M SORRY, BURBA.

I HAD A GREAT TIME LAST NIGHT.

WHAT'S THE JOB?

The PENTALION JOB

RICHARD STARKINGS
Script & Letters

AXEL MEDELLIN
Art & Colors

BOO COOK
Cover Art

Part One

THE MARKS

"THE PENTALIONS!"

"GIANT ROBOTIC EXO-SUITS THAT HELPED CHINA PUSH THE ELEPHANTMEN BACK THROUGH AUSTRIA, ALMOST TO THE FRENCH ALPS...

"MANNED BY CHINA'S OWN TRANSGENICS *HUMAN/TIGER HYBRIDS* KNOWN AS *THE BLACK DRAGONS** --

*See Elephantmen #34-35 & 47-49

"--THESE MACHINES ARE STATE-OF-THE-ART *NOW*, LET ALONE THEN...

"THEIR *FIREPOWER* WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO WIN THE WAR IN EUROPE...

"HOW IRONIC WOULD IT HAVE BEEN HAD CHINA'S GIANTS DEFEATED AFRICA'S *OWN* ELEPHANTMEN?

"OF COURSE, THE NUCLEAR *'EVENT'* PUT A STOP TO ALL HOSTILITIES AND EUROPE REMAINS BARREN AND UNCLAIMED."*

*See Elephantmen #57

THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE LOS ANGELES 2261

OUR FACILITY EXISTS SO THAT SUCH A WAR MIGHT NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

THE BLACK DRAGONS WERE *MAGNIFICENT* CREATURES... JUST IMAGINE WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE *LEARNED* FROM THEM.

BUT AFTER ALL, CHINA *WAS* FIGHTING THIS WAR TO GAIN LAND TO HELP SOLVE THEIR *POPULATION PROBLEM*...

"SO CHINA PREFERRED TO EXTERMINATE THEM THAN CONTINUE TO *FEED* THEM."*

*See Elephantmen #39

DID THEY DESERVE TO DIE?

PERHAPS THE MORE APPROPRIATE QUESTION IS, *DID THEY DESERVE TO LIVE?*

SOME FIND THE EXHIBITS HERE DISTURBING... *UNSETTLING.*

THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE.

"WHEN TIME MOVES US AWAY FROM THE *HOLOCAUST* OF WAR, PEOPLE *ALWAYS* FORGET."

POLITICIANS PROFFER FEAR OVER UNDERSTANDING.

THEY PREFER *IGNORANCE*. ZERO TOLERANCE.

AND THEY CUT FUNDING.

HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED?

"OBADIAH, YOU AND YOUR WIFE HAVE ALREADY BEEN VERY GENEROUS IN YOUR SUPPORT...

SAHARA, I FEEL LIKE I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE...

IN A *DREAM*...

...OR A *NIGHTMARE*...

WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE?

HAVEN'T WE ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH?

THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR *FATE*, HAD YOU REMAINED AT *NEXGEN*, SCARLET.*

*See Elephantmen #51-55 & 80

THIS WAS MY MOTHER'S FATE.*

*See Elephantmen #0 & 6

FATE? MAPPO ABDUCTED AND IMPREGNATED THESE WOMEN.

JUST AS NEXGEN ABDUCTED AND IMPREGNATED ME.

CHILDREN NEED LOVE, SCARLET, WOULD YOU SEPARATE A CHILD FROM ITS MOTHER...?

WAIT, YOU HAD US GIVE BIRTH TO TRANSGENICS...* YOU WANT US TO RAISE THEM AS WELL?

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

WHEN WILL YOU BE TAKING DELIVERY OF YOUR NEW... EXHIBITS?

THE PENTALIONS WILL BE LEAVING CHICAGO IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS...

HOWEVER, TRANSPORTATION HAS PROVEN TO BE MORE COSTLY THAN WE EXPECTED...

*See Elephantmen #80

I WILL SEE TO IT.

THANK YOU. YOUR SPONSORSHIP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED.

"WITHOUT THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE, THE CRIMES OF NIKKEN AND MAPPO WOULD BE FORGOTTEN.

"AND THIS KIND OF TERRIBLE ABUSE OF SCIENCE MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN."

*See Elephantmen #0 & 79

THE PORT OF CHICAGO • 2261

"UNTIL RECENTLY, THE PENTALIONS WERE IN THE HANDS OF A *PRIVATE COLLECTOR*.

"WHO KNOWS WHERE THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE GOT THE FUNDS TO ***BUY*** THESE PUPPIES...

"...BUT THEIR ***GAIN*** WILL SOON BE THEIR ***LOSS***.

"IF THEY WERE SHIPPING THESE UGLY HUNKS OF *TITANIUM* BY AIR, GETTING AHOLD OF THEM WOULD BE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT OPERATION...

"BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE, OBVIOUSLY.

"EACH OF THE PENTALIONS IS *FULLY OPERATIONAL*, OUR INFORMER WAS PART OF THE TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR *RESTORATION*.

"THEY ARE WORTH *BILLIONS*...

...AND THERE THEY GO.

ON THEIR WAY TO LOS ANGELES.

AND YOU WANT US TO *STEAL* THEM.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THERE'S THREE OF YOU, THERE ARE THREE PENTALIONS...

THE BRIEF TRAINING YOU'VE RECEIVED WILL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU TO *SYNCH UP*.

MY TEAM WILL DEAL WITH THEIR SECURITY OPERATIVES.

AND YOU WILL BASICALLY *WALK AWAY* WITH THE MARKS.

AND WHAT DO WE GET OUT OF THIS?

YOUR LIVES.

AND RELOCATION TO NOWA HUTA...

NOWA HUTA?! THAT'S NOT REAL.

THAT'S A *FAIRY TALE* ELEPHANTMEN TELL EACH OTHER SO THEY CAN *SLEEP* EASIER AT NIGHT.

IT'S REAL ALL RIGHT.

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO *HELL* IF YOU DON'T PULL THIS JOB OFF.

THE *BOMBS* AROUND YOUR NECKS WILL *DETONATE* IN *FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.*

UNLESS OUR BENEFACTOR *DEACTIVATES* THEM.

FARRELL, CHICAGO IS *COLD!* CAN YA TELL ME AGAIN *WHY* WE TOOK ON THIS ASSIGNMENT?

THESE *INSURANCE COMPANY* GIGS PAY WELL, FLASK.

IT'LL BE LIKE *BABYSITTING* YOUR LITTLE SISTER.

OR, IN *THIS* CASE, YOUR *BIG* SISTER...

THEY'RE TRUSTING THE TWO OF US TO KEEP THOSE PENTALIONS SAFE?

YOU ME AND A WHOLE POSSE OF SECURITY GUARDS DOING *ALL* THE *HARD* WORK.

I THINK THEY JUST LIKE THE *IDEA* OF HAVING AN *ELEPHANTMAN* ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS *MY* IDEA OR ANYTHING.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF *WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION* ON A TRAIN FROM CHICAGO TO L.A?

SURE. WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

2

ILLINOIS
2261

"SOMEHOW, I *KNEW* THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, FLASK...

...WE'VE GOT A *BOGEY.*

FINISH UP YOUR *LUNCH*, PAL -- LOOKS LIKE ONE OF YOUR *GOOD OLD BOYS* IS LOOKING FOR A *RUMBLE.*

HMPH!

"THESE INSURANCE COMPANY GIGS PAY WELL..."

YOU SAID.

"IT'LL BE LIKE BABYSITTING YOUR LITTLE BROTHER..."

SISTER. WAIT...

YOU SAID.

BUT *NOW* YOU'RE ALL: *"I KNEW THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN"?*

BURBA! *AND* HIS WHOLE CREW! WHO LET *THEM* OUT?!

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING? ***THREE*** SNOWSPEEDERS AGAINST OUR CRACK SECURITY TEAM?

THESE GUYS ARE TOTAL ***AMATEURS.***

TRIPLE-FIVE? ARE YOU ON TOP OF THIS?

THIS IS *TRIPLE FIVE* AGENT ***DANIELS*** RESPONDING.

I'M WITH ***PIERCE*** ON THE ***PORT*** SIDE. ***STARBOARD*** WE HAVE ROGERS AND DALTON.

I COUNT JUST THE THREE SPEEDERS... HARD TO TELL IF THESE BOGEYS ARE ARMED.

SHOOM

SCRATCH THAT! BOGEYS ARE HOSTILE!

AND WE ARE THE TARGETS!

FWOOM

WE'VE GOT THEM ***OUTNUMBERED*** WHAT ARE THEY PLAYING AT?

R-P-G!

SHRAKKK

ANNIE? TELL ME YOU GOT THIS?

I GOT IT.

SHIELDS! WE GONNA HAVE TO HIT 'EM HARDER!

LOADING DISRUPTOR GRENADE--

DISRUPT THIS!

AHHHH!

LLRAKK

OKAY, WHITEY, COCOA -- STEEL YOURSELVES...
WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO...

The PENTALION JOB

RICHARD STARKINGS
Script & Letters

AXEL MEDELLIN
Art & Colors

BOO COOK
Cover Art

Part Two

THE HEIST

DANIELS! DANIELS--? PIERCE? THIS IS FARRELL! DANIELS ISN'T RESPONDING--

--WHAT'S GOING ON BACK THERE?

SSHT SSHT SSHT SSHT SSHT SSHT SSHT SSHT SSHT

UNHH

ZAKKK

PIERCE? PIERCE?

ROGERS? DO YOU HAVE A TWENTY ON PIERCE AND DANIELS?

=UGMPH= CAN'T I EVER JUST ENJOY A SANDWICH...

ROGERS RESPONDING. DALTON AND I WILL INVESTIGATE...

ROGERS?! DALTON...?! THEY'RE NOT RESPONDING.

DAMMIT! WE'RE PASSING THROUGH DEAD AIR COUNTRY.*

LONG RANGE COMMS ARE DOWN FOR ANOTHER FIFTY MILES AT LEAST. WHOEVER'S DOING THIS HAS DONE THEIR HOMEWORK.

AND YOU SKIPPED CLASS!

SO WE HAVE NO WAY OF CALLING FOR BACKUP TO OUR BACKUP?

BOY, AM I GLAD I THOUGHT TO PACK LUNCH... WHAT'S THE PLAY, HOTSHOT?

LAZENBY? CONNERS? ARE YOU STILL ONLINE?

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

* knocked out in the War; See Elephantmen #15

WIND RIDERS-- ARGH!

ZAKKK

WINDRIDERS, FIGURES. SILENT BUT DEADLY.

I KNEW SOMETHING SMELT FUNNY ROUND HERE...

I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR AFTER SHAVE.

WE'VE GOT SIX MEN DOWN. LET'S TALK ABOUT WHO REALLY SMELLS BAD LATER.

BURBA? WE HAVE TAKEN OUT TRIPLE-FIVE'S SECURITY FORCES...

THE PENTALIONS ARE YOURS FOR THE TAKING...

THE PENTALIONS...

ONLY A HANDFUL OF THESE **GIANT ROBOTIC EXO-SUITS** ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE SURVIVED THE **AFRO-SINO WAR** AND THREE OF THEM ARE BEING TRANSPORTED ACROSS AMERICA TO THE **MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE** IN **LOS ANGELES.**

DESIGNED TO STRIKE **FEAR** INTO THE HEARTS OF AFRICA'S **ELEPHANTMEN**, THEIR **FIREPOWER** WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO **WIN** THE WAR IN EUROPE FOR CHINA.

IN THE WRONG HANDS, THE PENTALIONS COULD HELP START **ANOTHER** WAR...

Y'KNOW, FARRELL, THE MORE I'M ***THINKIN'*** ABOUT THIS SITUATION, THE MORE I THINK WE JUST ***MIGHT*** HAVE BEEN SET UP...

YOU'RE THINKING WHOEVER HIRED ***DEAL INSURANCE*** ARE LOOKING TO MAKE ***A BIG CLAIM*** IF THE PENTALIONS DON'T TURN UP IN L.A?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

I'D ADD "OVER OUR DEAD BODIES!"

FTAM

FTAM

STAY STILL DAMNIT!

FTAM

FARRELL!

=UHH=

ZZZAKK

MUD'S BLOOD! THAT'S MY PARTNER!

KRAK

HUNH?

COOLANT FOR BLOOD?

SYNTHETICS!

FARRELL? BUDDY? TALK TO ME!

UHH

DON'T EVEN---

MOTHER

OF

MUD

SPLUTT

ALRIGHT, BOYS, THE WAY IS CLEAR...

BUT LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO REMIND THE *BOTH* OF YOU THAT, IF WE *MESS UP* ON THIS JOB...

THE COLLARS *SCHAEFFER* HAD FASTENED ROUND ALL OF US *NECKS* WILL *BLOW OUR FREAKIN' HEADS OFF!.*

AND I FOR ONE HAVE BECOME MORE THAN A LITTLE *ATTACHED* TO MINE!

"WHITEY: TAKE THE BIG BLUE GUY WITH THE HORN.

"COCOA, YOU HAVE *THE HIPPO.*

"I'M TAKIN' *THE ELEPHANT.*

AND TAKE IT EASY, WE DON'T WANT ANY *ACCIDENTS.*

ENGAGING LANDING GEAR...

SHUMP

I'M DOWN. BRING IT ON IN, COCOA...

STOP YOUR FUSSIN', BURBA.

I GOT THIS..

EASY AS BLINKIN'!

SHUMP

SHP

WH...

SHFFFF

SHRSHRSHITTT

NUTS.

THAT WAS MY FAVORITE HAT.

COCOA, IF YOU DON'T START PAYIN' *ATTENTION*, YOU WON'T HAVE A *HEAD* TO *PUT* THAT HAT ON ANYWAYS.

FORGET ABOUT THE SPEEDER...

...WE GOT OUR RIDES RIGHT HERE.

WELL, THIS ISN'T GOOD.

'CEPT FOR THE FACT THAT WE'RE STILL ALIVE, RIGHT, JACK?

UH... YEAH, THANKS FOR THE *SAVE*, HIP.

WHAT IS BURBA'S *PLAN?* EVEN IF THEY GET AWAY WITH THE PENTALIONS, WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO *HIDE* THEM?

DAMMIT! THEY TOOK OUT OUR SECURITY TEAM IN *SECONDS!*

BUT DON'T WORRY, I STILL GOT A GUY ONBOARD.

A GUY. ONE GUY. THOSE SYNS JUST TOOK OUT *SIX.*

UH... HE'S MORE OF AN UNDERCOVER AGENT...

I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT HIM BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MAD...

WELL, LOOKIT WHAT WE GOT *HERE.* SEEMS LIKE ONE O' BURBA'S BOYS GOT *CARELESS!*

BURBA, THIS IS *ANNIE*. I'M IN THE ENGINE ROOM.

AS SCHAEFFER SAID, THE TRAIN IS *SELF-GUIDED*, THERE'S NO ONE HERE.

WE ARE *SHUTTING DOWN* ***SECURITY RESTRICTIONS*** ON THE PENTALIONS NOW...

LORNA, YOU GOT THAT?

JUST A SECOND.

DISABLING SECURITY PROTOCOLS ON PENTALION ONE...

PENTALION *TWO*...

PENTALION *THREE*...

YOU'D THINK THEY'D HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB ***PROTECTING*** THESE THINGS IF THEY'RE WORTH AS MUCH AS SCHAEFFER SAYS...

PRESS

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE ***ANY*** KIND OF ***CASH*** VALUE IF WE CAN'T GET THEM ***MOVING***, GIRLS...

AND WE'RE NOT ***MOVING*** THEM UNTIL WE ARE ***FAR*** FROM CIVILIZATION AND ***DEEP*** IN THE DESERT...

UTAH

THE DESERT, GREAT. OUT OF THE *FREEZER*, INTO THE *FRYING PAN*.

YEAH, THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO HIDE THEM IN SOME OLD *MISSILE SILOS* OUT HERE.

AND WHY AREN'T WE CALLING IN THE STATE AUTHORITIES?

HIP, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH *PRIVATE COLLECTORS* AND *SERIOUS MONEY* HAS CHANGED HANDS...

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY YOU DON'T ASK QUESTIONS. *OR* CALL THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

I GOT *DILLON* WORKING THIS FROM THE INSIDE, WE'RE COOL.

DILLON? THE FREAKY ROBOT THAT TRIED TO KILL US BOTH?*

SEE, IT'S *BECAUSE* YOU OVERREACT THAT I CAN'T ALWAYS GIVE YOU *ALL* THE INFORMATION.

*See Elephantmen 2261:The Death of Shorty

ALRIGHT, BOYS, WE ARE CLOSE TO OUR POINT OF DEPARTURE.

DON'T FORGET HOW THIS WORKS.

YOU MOVE, THE *EXO-SUIT* MOVES.

IT'S JUST LIKE WEARING A SECOND SKIN, EVEN IF IT IS A WHOLE LOT *UGLIER* ONE.

THIS IS COCOA. I AM PLUGGED IN AND *READY TO ROLL!*

WHITEY. ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!

SO, WE'RE MEETING THE TRAIN AT THE LOCATION *DILLON* SAYS THEY'RE STOPPIN' AT AND -- WHAT, EXACTLY?

HOLDING THEM UP WITH THE *PEASHOOTERS* WE TOOK FROM THE SPEEDER?

WAY I SEE IT, IF SOMEONE'S COMING TO TAKE THE PENTALIONS, WHO KNOWS WHAT *ELSE* THEY HAVE *SQUIRRELED AWAY* SOMEWHERE.

SO WE *FOLLOW* THEM AND WHEN WE KNOW WHERE THEY'RE PLANNING ON HIDING THESE... *BOOM!*

HMP. YOU KNOW, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE CONSIDERED...

HOLD THAT THOUGHT... SHE'S COMING ROUND THE MOUNTAIN...

"JUST LIKE OUR SPY IN THE CAB SAID SHE'D BE..."

ARE YOU SURE THIS ISN'T SOME KIND OF *SCAM* RIGGED BY THE INSURANCE COMPANY THAT HAS US ON PAYROLL.

IT'S ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY -- WE GET PAID EITHER WAY, HIP!

NOT IF WE'RE *DEAD*, JACK.

HSHSSSHH

BURBA. OUR TRAIN IS AT A FULL STOP...

COPY THAT, ANNIE. WE ARE READY TO RUMBLE...

IF THEY ARE *AIRLIFTING* THESE PUPPIES, I DON'T SEE ANY *CARRIERS* IN SIGHT...

DILLON, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR US...?

I WAS JUST SAYIN'... MAYBE THEY AIN'T GONNA BE *TAKEN* OFF THE TRAIN...

MISTER FARRELL +++ THIS ONE IS NOT AWARE OF ANY CONTACT ++ MADE TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES REGARDING THE RETRIEVAL OF THE PENTALIONS +

MAYBE THEY'RE JUST STEPPIN' OFF!

3

UTAH
2261

WHUMP!

...HIP FLASK IS COMING TO PLAY!

FLASK! THIS WAS NOT THE PLAN!

NOT THAT WE HAD A PLAN. BUT

IF WE HAD HAD A PLAN

THIS WAS NOT IT.

FARRELL, MAKING IT UP AS I GO ALONG IS KINDA MY *THING*.

SHTOOM!

SO LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT!*

SCHLANGG!

WHAT THE HELL--?

HELL IS *JUST* BREAKING OUT... AND YOU ARE GOIN' *DOWN*, COCOA!

THUD

UHHH

CHOOMP

COCOA! HELL'S TEETH! GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER.

LIGHTEN UP, WHITEY, HE'S JUST HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE SYNCH.

COCOA. GET YOURSELF BACK UP.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

WHITEY, GO HELP HIM.

I'M FINE. ON IT!

JUST, UM GETTIN' SORTED HERE...

COCOA, YA DOPE!

SCREW UP AN' BOOM! WE ALL LOSE OUR HEADS.

HOLD ON... I GOT THIS!

SEEMS TO BE RESPONDING TO MY THOUGHTS AND MOVEMENTS...

SHNNK

WAIT, COCOA? WHAT HAPPENED TA YOUR *VOICE?*

JUST... KINDA GETTIN' THE *HANG* OF THIS...

I MEAN, IF YOU THREE *STOOGES* CAN DO THIS--

HOW... *DIFFICULT* CAN IT... BE...?

WHAKK

OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS SOME KINDA *GUN*...

ZMMM

BURBA, DON'T YOU LEARN? SEEMS LIKE YOU ACTUALLY *LIKE* JAILTIME!

WHO TH*UHHH!*

ZA-TOOM

DAMMIT, BUDDY... YOU'RE *OUTNUMBERED!*

WAIT, I RECOGNIZE THAT *ATTITUDE...* **FLASK!**

THE VERY SAME. WHY D'YA THINK I CHOSE *THIS* HANDSOME RIG?

HAD YA NOTICED THERE ARE NO PENTALIONS LOOKIN' LIKE *YOUR* UGLY MUG?

LAUGH IT UP, *BALLBAG*, I AM GONNA *TEAR YOU APART!*

KRATOOM!

D'YA REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET THE BETTER OF ME IN *THIS* SITUATION?

LEMME SEE -- YOU AND YOUR *CHUMPS* ARE *OPPORTUNISTS*, RIGHT?

SO YOU'RE DOIN' THIS FOR *MONEY*, AND YOU PROBABLY CAN'T *AFFORD* TO TEAR *THIS* SUIT APART...

WHUMP

SO, *YEAH*, I THINK I'M IN WITH A CHANCE!

BURBA?

IT'S *ANNIE*... WHAT'S GOING ON?

DILLON! WE NEED YOUR HELP. IF THERE'S ANY WAY OF KNOCKING OUT THESE *BIGASS ROBOTS* FROM WHERE YOU'RE AT -- *KNOCK 'EM OUT!*

+++ THIS ONE ++ UNDERSTANDS +

+++ THIS ONE ++ HAS BEEN LOOKING FORWARD

SHUKT

+ TO KNOCKING SOMETHING OUT +

SHWIPP

?

THK

+++THIS ONE ++ SUGGESTS YOU CEASE AND DESIST --

-- ALL PENTALION ACTIVITY + IF YOU ++ CHOOSE NOT TO +

PRESS

FA WOOM

WHO-- WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?

+++ THIS ONE ++ IS DILLON + CYBERSOL SYSTEMS + SERIES ONE POINT ONE +

INTERESTING.

SAY HELLO TO CYBERSOL *SERIES SIX!*

ZZZZZZ

ZZ KT

+++ THIS + + ONE +

+++

ZAK ZAK ZAK

ZAK ZAK ZAK

NEVER UPDATED + + CYBERSOL + FIRMWARE +

+++ THIS ONE ++ DETERMINED THAT CYBERSOL'S FAILSAFES REGARDING USING OTHER POWER SOURCES AS A RESOURCE + WERE TOO LIMITING +

ZAKOOM!

NUTS AND BOLTS!

C'MON, BURBA, DON'T HOLD BACK ON ME, GIMME EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

DAMN YOU, FLASK. ALWAYS STICKING YOUR MASSIVE SNOUT IN WHERE IT'S NOT WANTED!

KLANG

IT JUST HAD TO BE COCOA, SCREWIN' UP, DIDN'T IT?

I CAN'T SAY I'M NOT GONNA TAKE PLEASURE IN THIS...

WHAK

+++ THIS ++ ONE ADVISES YOU TO STOP IMMEDIATELY +

AH, CYBERSOL PROTOTYPES – WHY USE *ONE* WORD WHEN *SEVEN* WILL DO?

DILLON! WHAT'S THE SITCH? CAN YOU ***DISABLE*** THE PENTALIONS?

+++ THIS ONE ++ HAS DISABLED + THE MEANS BY WHICH THE PENTALIONS + MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISABLED +

ZZZZ

DILLON, DUDE, YOU HAD ONE JOB...

ONCE I'VE TAKEN *YOU* OUT, FLASK...

I JUST MIGHT GET IN THERE AND GIVE *COCOA* THE BEATING *HE* DESERVES!

KRAKT

YOUR BUDDY IS ALREADY *OUT FOR THE COUNT*, WHITEY.

WOK

STAY DOWN! YOU DO NOT KNOW THE STAKES HERE!

MAYBE NOT, BUT THESE PENTALIONS BELONG IN A *MUSEUM*, AND *SCUM* LIKE YOU BELONG IN *JAIL!*

YOU THINK *WE'RE* SCUM? YOU'VE BEEN HANGING OUT WITH TOO MANY *HUMANS* -- YOU DESERVE THE *SAME* FATE THAT AWAITS *THEM!*

I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES, *BRING IT ON!*

DILLON, I'M GONNA BE RIGHT THERE -- GIMME AN UPDATE!

+++ THE SYN IS ++ ACQUIRING YOUR + VEHICLE +

ZAKK

GIRLS! NEED A LITTLE *HELP* HERE...

DILLON. WHATEVER YOU DO, DO *NOT* MESS UP MY CAR!

++ THIS ONE ++ CANNOT MAKE + ANY PROMISES +

CRAPSNACKS. JUST -- DON'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL I GET THERE!

++ THIS ONE ++ CANNOT + WAIT +

+++ PUT THE CAR DOWN ++ AND NO ONE WILL GET HURT+

THAT'S RIGHT, TIN-TITS, COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE!

KRAKK

LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN PULL THAT *FEEDBACK STUNT* WITH YOUR *HANDS FULL!*

+ VARRR +

SHRAKK

YEAH, I DIDN'T THINK SO!

AH, OKAY, THERE'S MORE OF YOU...

SLAM

WHUNCH

SKRANK

CHOOM

KRAK

WAIT!

FLASK! BACK OFF!

THE TWO OF YOU CAN *RIP* YOUR EXO TO *PIECES* AND THEY'LL BE PEELING YOU OUT OF THE *WRECKAGE* ONE *BODY PART* AT A TIME...

THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT. GIVE IT UP!

YOU'VE MADE IT MY FIGHT...

THESE ARE WEAPONS OF A WAR I'D LIKE TO FORGET...

ARE YOU PLANNING TO START *ANOTHER ONE?*

TAKE A LOOK AT COCOA...

DO YOU SEE THAT **COLLAR** AROUND HIS *NECK?*

*IT'S A **BOMB**. WE HAVE EACH OF US BEEN STRAPPED WITH ONE OF THOSE COLLARS -- AND WE HAVE LESS THAN **TWENTY HOURS** BEFORE EACH ONE OF THEM GOES OFF.*

*DON'T THINK ABOUT REMOVING IT, OR YOU'LL BE **BLOWN SKY HIGH** TOO.*

+++ MISTER FARRELL ++

+++ THIS ONE IS EXPERIENZZING SYZTEM BREAKDOWN ++

SHWIPP

GET--

OFF!

KRAKKRAKT

DILLON!

WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, FLASK?

ZMMMM

BITE ME.

AGENT FARRELL, *BIG DEAL INSURANCE...*

DROP YOUR, UM, *HANDS...* AND NO ONE NEEDS GET HURT.

NO.

ZZZ

The PENTALION JOB

RICHARD STARKINGS
Script & Letters

AXEL MEDELLIN
Art & Colors

BOO COOK
Cover Art

Part Three

THE FIGHT

4

UTAH · 2261

KKK

UNH!

SORRY, LADIES...

DOWNLOADED THIS LITTLE FEATURE FROM THE HOG'S ROADHOG...

THE *ONE* THING I *HAD* PLANNED ON...

FTAM

NOT FALLING FOR THE SAME STUNT *TWICE!*

ZAM

ZMMMM

FLASK, I'M GONNA COUNT TO *THREE*...

ONE...

TWO!

THREE!

DO YOUR WORST, BURBA, THIS MACHINE IS GOING TO THE MUSEUM!

FLASK, I SWEAR...

AAAA

UHHH...

CALL IT A DRAW?

++ STOP! +

HUH?

++ THIS ONE +

++ IS NOT TO BE HARMED +

MUNTASS!

SHUMP

WHUD

EAT IT, FLASK!

ZMM

FRAKOW!

SHOOM

WHERE IS THAT *BASTARD?*

I'LL *PULVERIZE* THAT SAD SACK.

WHITEY! LEAVE HIM FOR THE *VULTURES...*

WE'VE GOT LESS THAN *FOUR HOURS* TO TURN THESE PUPPIES IN BEFORE THESE *COLLARS* ROUND OUR *NECKS* POP OUR HEADS OFF..

I DO NOT INTEND TO *DIE* HERE WITH FLASK.

ANNIE, WE'RE MOVING ON TO THE *DROPOFF...*

ANY PROBLEMS AT YOUR END?

++ NONE +

++ THIS ONE IS JUST DEALING WITH +

+ SOME MINOR DETAILS +

ZZAKK

ZZAKK

HMH.

DILLON?

GOTCHA. CHECK THE BLAST AREA BACK THERE, ANNIE.

FLASK'S BODY SHOULD BE DEAD IN THE DUST.

THAT'S RIGHT, BURBA. *RUN.*

FLASK! BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU STILL IN ONE PIECE, PAL...

Uhh... JACK? ISN'T THIS THE CHICK THAT ZAPPED YOU OFF THE TRAIN?

Um... YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

++ THIS ONE IS NOT + A CHICK + THIS ONE IS THE UPLOADED CONSCIOUSNESS OF CYBERSOL SERIES ONE POINT ONE..

Ah -- DILLON.

YEAH, THAT'S NOT WEIRD *AT ALL*...

WHATEVER. LET'S GET AFTER 'EM.

NO MORE DISTRACTIONS.

AND DON'T BE THINKING SCHAEFFER WON'T ***BLOW*** THESE COLLARS WHILE WE'RE ***INSIDE*** THE ***PENTALIONS***.

IF WE DON'T GET THESE BABIES IN ON TIME, THEY'RE JUST AS EXPENDABLE AS WE ARE.

WAITAMINUTE. MY GUY IS BEAT UP.

HOW CAN I BE SURE THEY DON'T WASTE ME ANYWAY?

DUDE! MAYBE IF YOU'D WATCHED YER ***BACK*** BETTER YOU WOULDN'T LOOK LIKE ***YESTERDAY'S BREAKFAST!***

GIMME A BREAK! HOW WAS I TO KNOW FLASK WAS ON OUR TAIL?

DAMMIT, COCOA, YOU'VE BEEN MESSIN' UP SINCE *MINUTE ONE!*

HAD IT BEEN MY CALL, I WOULDN'T EVEN TRUST YOU WITH A *PUSHBIKE...*

SCREW YOU, PIG!

ZAMMM

CRASH

KRANK

THAK

JULIUS, HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE LEFT?

TIME REMAINING: THREE HOURS, ONE MINUTE.

AND HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE US TO REACH OUR DESTINATION?

TIME TO RENDEZVOUS: TWO HOURS, FORTY-SEVEN MINUTES

SORRY, BOYS.

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

SHMP

SHMP

SHMP

++ IN THIS FORM ++ THIS ONE + CAN EASILY DISABLE THE PILOTS +

AS IF I DIDN'T DISLIKE *THIS ONE* ENOUGH ALREADY...

OF COURSE... HOLD ON...!

YA WANNA TELL ME AGAIN HOW I *SCREWED UP*, WHITEY?

COCOA ... DO YOU THINK THIS... ISN'T MORE OF... THE SAME?

YOU'RE MORE OF THE SAME!

KRTUNCH

SHRKKT

GET READY...

++ CLOSER +

GET READY FOR *THE KNOCK OUT*, WHITEY, THIS WILL ONLY HURT *A LOT!*

HUNH-- ANNIE?

++ THIS ONE + PREFERS THE NOMENCLATURE + *DILLON* +

ZZKTZZ

++ MISTER FARRELL + THE ONE KNOWN AS COCOA HAS + BEEN DISABLED +

++ THIS ONE MAY HAVE NEGLECTED + TO MENTION THAT + EACH PILOT IS ATTACHED TO A COLLAR BOMB +

KLIK! KLIK!

MUD'S BLOOD! WE GOTTA GET THAT HOG OUTTA THERE!

NHRNNN

UNNH! DAMMIT! DOOR IS HALF-BURIED!

FLASK! YA HAVETA HELP ME...

KLIK! KLIK!

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG! IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO...

MOTHER OF MAPPO... GET IT OFF ME! GET IT OFF ME!

KLIK! KLIK! KLIK!

WHITEY, YA GOTTA HELP ME -- PUSH FROM YOUR SIDE!

KLIK! KLIK! KLIK

I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE THREE MORE HOURS--

LIK! KLIK

THOOM

CRAP!

WHAT THE WHAT, FLASK?!

BOMB... THEY RIGGED UP WHITEY WITH A BOMB... JUST BLEW HIM TO KINGDOM COME...

DILLON...!

DILLON -- GET OUT OF THERE, NOW!

++ THIS ONE IS AWARE OF THE DANGER + THIS SYN'S MEMORY INDICATES +++

KLIK! KLIK! KLIK!

++ PILOTS EXPENDABLE ++

KSUK

KHOOM

+ PENTALIONS ALSO +

YOU DID YOUR BEST, DILLON...

Uhh, THAT PENTALION IS GONNA FALL... WHERE DID YOU *PARK*, JACK?

KTUNCH

SO WHAT WAS THIS ALL *FOR?* WHO'S *BEHIND* IT? WHERE IS BURBA *TAKING* THAT RIG?

++ THIS ONE + THIS SYN + HAS NO INFORMATION + JUST A NAME + + *SCHAEFFER* +

FARRELL? IS DILLON GONNA BE STUCK IN THE GIRL'S BODY FROM NOW ON?

I GUESS. AN IMPROVEMENT, DONTCHA THINK?

AS FOR MY *CAR*, WELL, I HOPE DILLON CAN RUN BACK TO THE TRAIN AND GET OUR HORSES... OR WE GOT OURSELVES A *LONG WALK* TO L.A...

SHMP

SHMP

VRRRRR

SHMP

SHMP

SHNK
SHNK
SHNK
WHAT THE HELL...?
ZMMMMM

SO THIS IS IT?

THIS *IS* IT.

YOU MADE IT.

THE OTHERS--

THEY, *UHH...*

YES. YOU CAN REMOVE THE DEVICE NOW.

SO... WE'RE DONE--?

SPK

YOU'RE FREE. WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR TRANSPORT TO *NOWA HUTA.*

A NEW LIFE AWAITS YOU. *IF YOU WISH.*

MY FRIENDS...

YOU ALL KNEW THE RISKS.

THEY FAILED. THEY PAID THE PRICE.

YOU DID NOT.

HERE.

SURE.

NOWA HUTA. ***SANCTUARY.*** I'LL BUY IT.

SHM

GIVING HIM THE ILLUSION OF ***CHOICE*** IS AN ***INTRIGUING*** GAMBIT, MISTER SCHAEFFER.

HIRING *THUGS* TO PERFORM A TASK THAT *SYNTHETICS* COULD HANDLE MORE EFFECTIVELY ON THEIR *OWN* IS EQUALLY INTRIGUING, MISTER HORN.

I PREFER TO HAVE THE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT TRANSGENICS LIKE *BURBA* AND HIS GANG ARE *NOT* TO BE *TRUSTED*.

THE POLICE WILL CRACK DOWN EVEN MORE ON ELEPHANTMEN FOR EVERY LITTLE CRIME THEY COMMIT... SO WHEN IT IS *NECESSARY*, IT WILL BE EASIER TO RECRUIT MORE OF MY... *SPECIES*.

"ONLY ONE PENTALION WAS RECOVERED, I HOPE YOU ARE NOT OVERLY DISAPPOINTED...?"

EVEN *ONE* MORE WEAPON IN MY ARSENAL IS A *VICTORY*...

"TO CREATE PEACE YOU MUST ALWAYS PREPARE FOR WAR..."

SUCH WEAPONS DO NOT BELONG IN A *MUSEUM*, AND WHO WILL SUSPECT THE MAN WHO SPONSORED THEIR ACQUISITION TO HAVE *STOLEN* THEM?

AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, MISTER SCHAEFFER, *I* WILL BE PREPARED FOR A *WAR* THAT WILL MAKE THE *LAST* ONE SEEM LIKE A *PICNIC*.

101 ELEPHANTMEN!

The PENTALION JOB

Part Four

T-K-O!

WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

RICHARD STARKINGS
Script & Letters

AXEL MEDELLIN
Art & Colors

BOO COOK
Cover Art

5

Holiday Special

'Twas the Night before Christmas, A Decade Ago...

...and Vanity Case was Dreaming of Snow.

Her Father knew Christmas was Special for her...

So he Waited 'til Late to Steal through her Door.

Her Stocking was Waiting for Santa to See

(She still didn't know that Santa was He!)

Early on she'd been Listening For Donner and Blitzen,

And Dancer and Prancer and Rudolf as well.

But Soft Pillows were Calling, And the Girl was soon Falling

To Sleep and Dreams steeped in that Christmas Tree Smell!

In Dawn's Light she was Yawning...

Thinking: It Must be Christmas Morning!

And there, sure enough, at the End of her Bed...

A ChocOrange! a Teddy! Just like Santa had said!

And a Mystery Box, Tied up with a Bow...

What was Inside it? What could it BE?

Vanity tore at the Wrapping, Barely containing her Glee!

A Snow Globe! The City! Icy and Grey!

She Shook it, and Sparkles chased the Grey Skies Away!

There were words 'round the base, Her Dad read them to her that Day...

From Tomorrow on I shall be Sad, Not Today... Today I Shall Be Glad...

...and Every Day, No Matter How Bitter Life May Be, I Shall Say...

From Tomorrow On...

...I SHALL BE SAD...

NOT TODAY

Before she was Fifteen,
Her Father had died,
Before she was Sixteen,
Mom lay by his Side...

Three Years on, She
still cries Every Night,
Her Heart Still Heavy
Behind a Smile Light
and Bright...

And tho' the Moon
throws Soft Hues
on the Fresh Fallen Snow,
It gives no Lustre to Life
for poor Vanity Below.

Her Parents Long Gone,
And Santa as Well,
No Bells in her Ears,
No Christmas Tree Smell.

Richard Starkings • Axel Medellin • Boo Cook
Script & Letters Art & Colors Cover Art

Was that just the Wind Whisp'ring her name in her ear?

She breaks off her Reverie...

...and Wipes away Tears.

She Tightens her jacket and adjusts her Hat

Then a Snowball appears on her face with a SPLAT

Whoever had thrown that, was Pushing their Luck...

Another snowball came flying...

But she had time to Duck!

HEH.

There, over the Wall, Her colleague from Work!

Hip Flask was his name, but Today just--

YOU JERK!

With Nary a Thought, Vanity scooped up some Snow...

She Hurled it, and Called Out--

TRY THIS FOR SIZE!

SPLAT!

Hard packed, but soft, and ready to Throw!

And the Snowball Exploded Between Hip Flask's eyes!

OF COURSE, YOU DO REALIZE...

She Exclaimed with a Roar--

YOU'D BETTER RUN FAST BECAUSE YOU JUST STARTED A WAR!

The City Before Them Was Icy and Grey...

SPLAT

The Street underneath them was Also that Way!

UH-OH!

ROAD CES OVER!

Hip Flask lost his Footing, And started to Slide...

WHOOOAA!

Then Vanity too Was Along for the Ride!

Now Just Down the Hillside, as Fate Would Have it... Was Hip's Friend Savannah, and her Cuddly Rabbit.

Like Vanity, Savvy had Lost Someone Dear, And We All Miss our Loved Ones at This Time of Year.

As she Finished her Snowman (of Ebony Hide), Her Grampa seemed to appear, Beaming with Pride

WELL DONE, SAVANNAH!

She Thought he was Saying, and--

DON'T MIND ME...

...I LOVE TO SEE YOU OUT PLAYING.

BUT GRAMPA,

She said...

IT WAS MORE FUN WITH YOU HERE!

CAN'T YOU COME BACK, AT THE END OF EACH YEAR?

DON'T THINK I DON'T WANT TO,

Grampa said with a Smile

BUT THERE HAS TO BE SPACE IN YOUR HEART FOR A WHILE.

WHOA!

OTHERS WILL FILL IT,

JUST WAIT AND SEE...

THEY'LL FLY INTO YOUR LIFE,

YOU'LL FORGET ABOUT ME!

NO WAY!

She Cried Out

(and Would Have Said More)

But Right at that Moment,
She was Knocked to the Floor!

A Big Drift of Snow Softened their Fall...

But Down Came Ebony, Carrot Nose and All!

Now Carrots for Hippos are a Favorite!

So How Could Our Hero Resist Just One Bite?

Seeing this Happen after All Her Hard Work, What else Could Sav say, but--

HIP FLASK, YOU JERK!

Right then Both of her Brothers appeared on Snow Boards,

Leaving Savannah at a Loss For More Words!

(At least ones, Dear Reader, she Shouldn't have said!)

(Who knows how Coarse Names first got into her Head!)

The Sound of Their Laughter Filled the Cold Air

HAHAHAHAHAHA

CATCH US IF YOU CAN!

Was Hunter's Bold Dare!

HAHAHAHAHAHA

NO, ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

Hip said with a Sigh...

YOU RUINED MY SNOWMAN, FOR THAT, YOU WILL DIE!

Savannah's Grim Scowl Could not be Missed.

I'LL HELP BUILD ANOTHER, KID, I SEE THAT YOU'RE PISSED.

That's all very well, Hip, as you brush off your Cotton...

But right there Behind You is One Briefly Forgotten!

WHOOOA

OOOH!

OH

AH

WHOA!

WHA--?

NO NONONO NO!

WOAH WOAH WOAH WOAH WOAH!

HA HAHAHAHA

HA HAHAHAHAHAHAHA

Hip Flask picked up speed, His Tough Body a sled...

OH, YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY?

WHAT IF DANGER'S AHEAD?!

SWISSSHH

So Let's Look Down the Road,

Where the City is Hopping...

And Obadiah Horn is out Christmas Shopping!

His Lovely Bride, Sahara Insists upon this.

To Be Seen, out in Public, Is Always Her Wish!

She'd Say Staying at Home Was "No Fun At All!"

"Not When Good People were Having a Ball!"

SWISH SHISH

WHOOOAA!

Words to Live By? A Thing to Believe?

Let's See How that Pans Out THIS Christmas Eve!

Her Husband is Not Known for his Poise and Restraint. Indeed, All Those Things that She IS, Well, He AIN'T!

So Imagine His Feelings,
Imagine How Trying--

When He's Knocked Down
in His Finery,
His Gfits All Sent Flying!

Not Only Does He Hit The Ground With a

THUMP!

But Also, Within Seconds--

Made to Look Like a CHUMP!

What Could Hip Do, then? What Could He Say?

UM, MERRY CHRISTMAS?

HAVING A NICE DAY?

Now, if You're Late to our Story, (It's No Crime, Be at Ease!)

We Think You Should Know, These Two:? Mortal Enemies!

Obadiah sees RED,
And grabs at a Bauble!

Ready to Crush his Foe,
For this Foible!

Hip is Starting to Believe
Today is Just Cursed!

ALL RIGHT, I GET IT, GO AHEAD--

DO YOUR WORST!

But then, at That Moment,
Just as We Began--

SPLAT

A Snowball came Flying
To Foil Horn's Rash Plan!

LEAVE HIP ALONE!

Said Savvy:

PLAY FAIR!

Then Shivered as She Looked Into Obadiah's Hard Stare!

SPLAT

Of Course, 'twas not just Savannah Followed Hip into Town--

BOTH of her Brothers had Snow to Throw Down!

From all Sides Horn was attacked, By Snow White and Wet!

SPLAT

From Savvy, from Hunter, and also from Jet!

Such Children were Reason Why Horn rarely went Out,

SPLAT

He'd make these Meddlin' Kids Pay
He'd give them a Clout!

Horn's Fury he'd Seen,
So Hip stepped Inbetween

Their Chances of Winning
He knew only too Well...

Were Slim, Less than Nothing. Like--

A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL!

No Sooner he'd said this, And Right in His Snout--

SPLAT

Sahara and Vanity Called the Boys Out!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE US? DO YOU THINK YOU COULD WIN?

Hip looked to Obadiah, Who was Looking at Him.

GAME ON!

They Agreed,

Then Attacked at Great Speed!

Their Volley was Met by a Counterattack...

And in Just a Few Seconds, The Laughter was Back!

HAHAHA

HAHAHAHAHA

All Then Forgot
Any Troubles and Woes
For Friendship can Warm You
From Your Head to your Toes!
Remember this Verse then,
When Troubled by Sorrow...

I won't Be Sad Today
I'll Do That Tomorrow!

Today I Shall be Glad!

And Every Day,
No Matter How Bitter
Life May Be, I will Say...

From Tomorrow On
I shall be Sad...

Not Today!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
EVERYONE!

And Later that Night..

WAGNER, I'VE HAD A HARD DAY...

WHERE. IS. THE. MARZIPAN?

YOU SET A REMINDER, BOSS...

WAGNER? I HAVE GOT TO LAY OFF THE TREATS OVER THE HOLIDAYS THIS YEAR!.

DO NOT LET ME NEAR CHOCOLATE OR MARZIPAN!

WHAT? HUMBUG!

AND ESPECIALLY NOT THE CHOCOLATE MARZIPAN!

I THINK IT MIGHT BE GIVIN' ME BAD DREAMS!

WAGNER, GO INTO MY REMINDERS AND CLEAR HISTORY!

AND THEN, TELL ME WHERE THE MARZIPAN IS!

UM... I HID IT IN THE WHISKEY BARREL...

SO WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE *WHISKEY*, WAGNER?

DID I LEAVE A REMINDER ABOUT THAT TOO?

UH, SET A REMINDER THAT YOU SHOULD *IGNORE* ANY REMINDERS IN FUTURE...

AHHHH JACKPOT!

WAGNER! YOU KNOW THE DRILL!

GOTCHA, BOSS! *OPEN WIDE!*

ARRGLLGRALLGGARR

AHHHHH *THAT* IS SOME GOOD CHRISTMAS CANDY...

IF THAT DOESN'T KNOCK ME OUT...

ZZZ

ZZZZZZ

ZZZZMMM

ЦН

МЦН

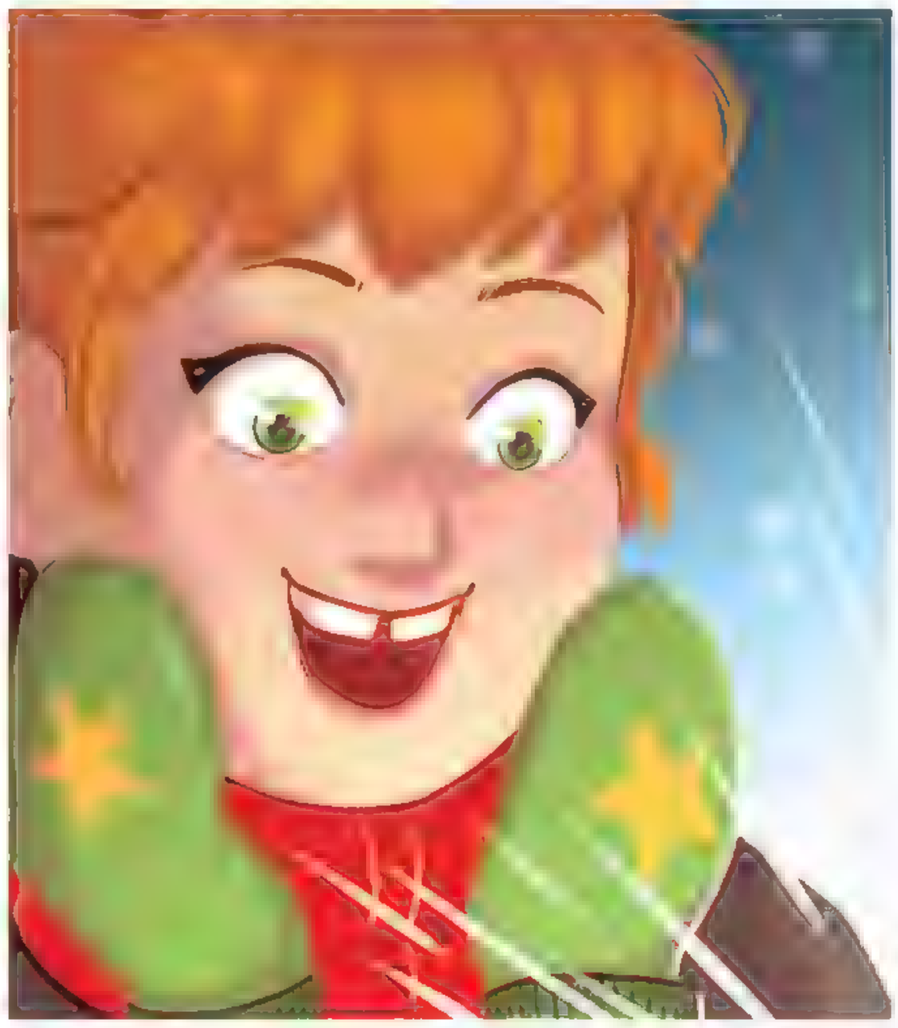
ВЦН

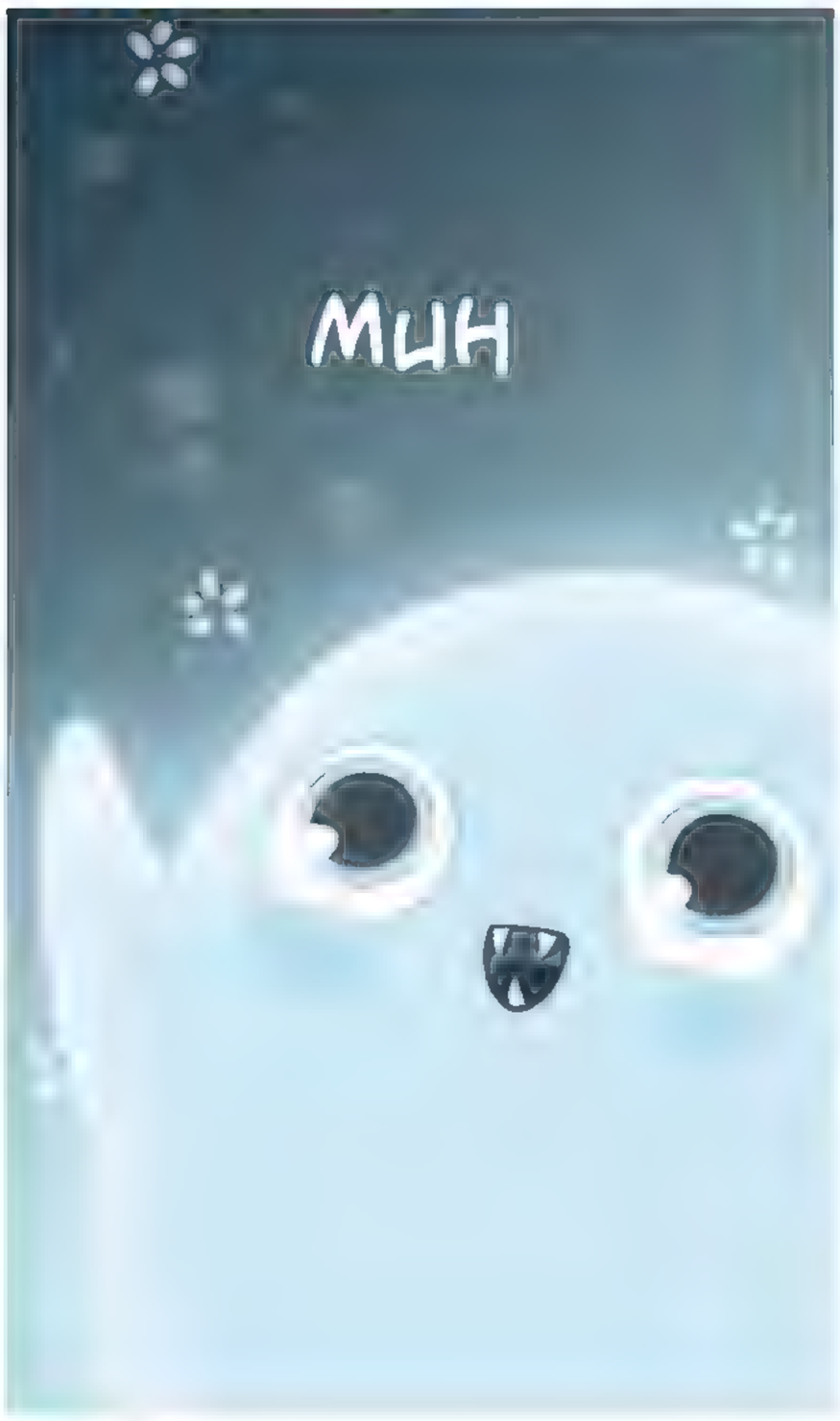
MARZIPAN!

STORY
RICHARD ITARKINGS

ART
MARGAUX SALTEL

МИН
МИН
МИН




МИН

HM-MM

MUH

Shhh

MUH

MUH

MUH

MARZIPAN!

MUH
MUH

MUH

MUH

мин

мин

ин

7

Snff!

мин

мин

мин

MARZ!PAN!

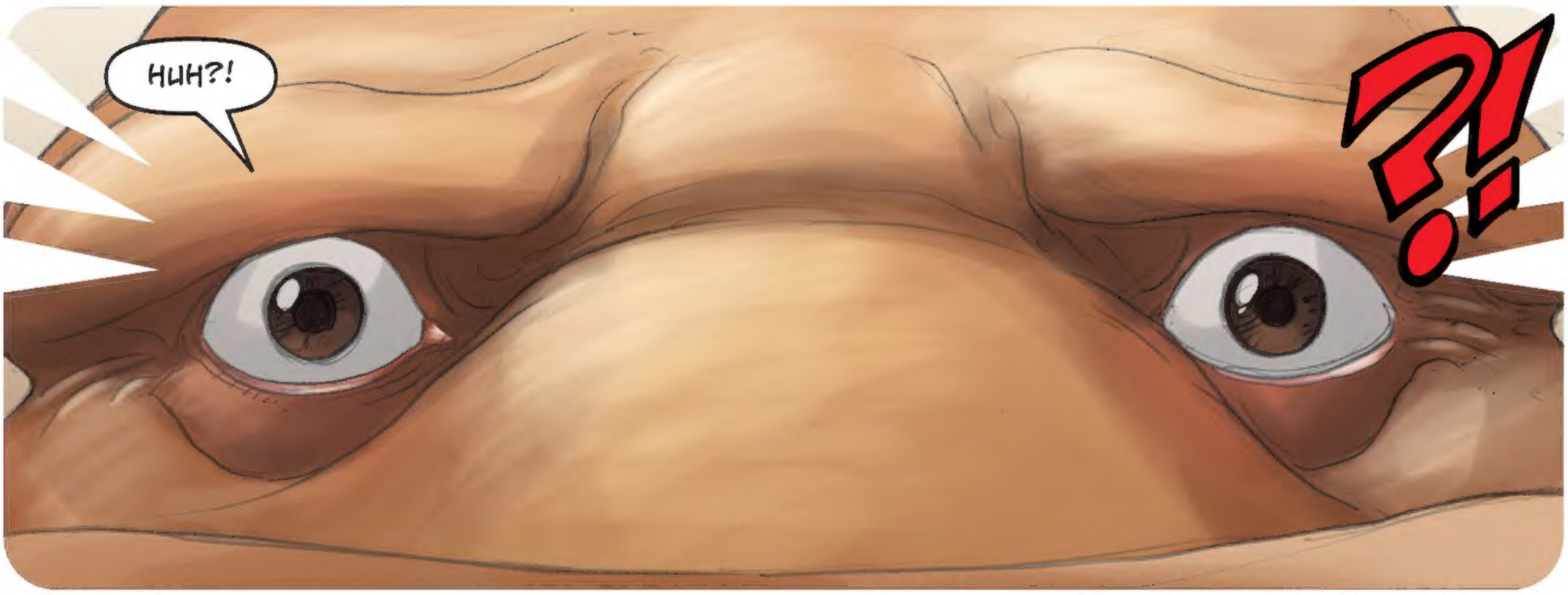
HMW

HMW

HMW

HMW

HMW



Richard Starkings . Axel Medellin
Script & Letters Art & Colors

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